

SITUATION REPORT NO. 47
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: June 6, 1997 TIME: 12:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Dry conditions in the Devils Lake Basin are slowing the rise of the lake, prompting the National Weather Service to revise its predicted crest. A June 4 update calls for the lake to rise to a minimum of 1,443 feet by mid-July, one-half foot less than earlier predictions. The highest predicted crest remains at 1,444 feet. Forecasters attributed the revised forecast to warm temperatures, increased evaporation rates and below normal precipitation.

On June 6, the lake had risen to 1,442.17 feet, which is 1.17 feet above the previous recorded maximum elevation of 1,441 feet set in 1830.

A report by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Housing Program indicates that 4,983 Grand Forks housing applicants with damaged homes are relocated throughout North Dakota and 2,521 in Minnesota.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The N.D. Psychological Association assisted the American Red Cross (ARC) in providing mental health assistance at shelters and mass care sites. The association is working with the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Service to

provide one-on-one counseling service to disaster affected farmers in the state. Members of the Committee on Unmet Needs, a volunteer organization of North Dakota churches, reported that Grand Forks flood victims are encountering problems securing child care. The committee found that 50 percent of Grand Forks child care providers do not plan to resume operations.

A conference call for Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) will be conducted June 11 at 10:00 a.m. The next VOAD meeting has been scheduled for June 23 at 11:00 a.m. at the Ramsey National Bank in Devils Lake.

The “Teddy Bear Guy” from Texas has donated 250 teddy bears to the Grand Forks Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) for distribution to area children.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The State/Federal Hazard Mitigation Program team members have reminded local government officials that they have until June 7 to submit Notice of Interest for participation in the hazard mitigation program. The Hazard Mitigation Team has developed a shortened application for acquisition of substantially damaged homes. Emergency managers with communities interested in submitting such applications are encouraged to contact North Dakota Emergency Management. Copies of the Interagency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program team report will be distributed to team members and county emergency managers by early next week.

The Disaster Housing Program reports that 25 of 175 manufactured homes that are to be used for long-term temporary housing and 196 of 473 travel trailers to supplement existing housing needs have arrived in North Dakota.

Owners and managers of rental apartments receiving federal assistance were notified by the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) that they may waive certain eligibility requirements to make their vacant apartments eligible to persons displaced by flooding.

To date, more than \$12.4 million has been paid to local governments and qualified private nonprofit organizations in Public Assistance Program funds for infrastructure repairs, emergency work and debris removal.

Nearly 34,000 North Dakotans have reported personal property damages to the National Teleregistration Center (NTC). Of those applicants, 21,489 have received \$37,487,475 in Disaster Housing assistance.

The SBA has received 8,612 loan applications. Of these, 3,907 have been approved for a total of approximately \$79 million in low-interest loans for businesses and individuals.

The state Individual and Family Grant (IFG) program has approved more than \$2 million in grants to individuals for flood losses. The average IFG grant is \$1,192.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The Weather Service plans to release its next Devils Lake update on June 18.

Other web site addresses for flood recovery information include:

N.D. Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>
N.D. League of Cities: <http://www.ndlc.org>
N.D. State Water Commission: <http://water.swc.state.nd.us>
N.D. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>
U.S. Geological Survey: <http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>

Douglas C. Friez, State Director